



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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**Date:** 12/8/2005

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## Australia

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

### New Country of Origin Labeling Standard Becomes Law

**2005**

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**Report Highlights:**

Changes to Australia's country of origin food labeling standard have today become law. The new standard will have a phase-in period of six months for unpackaged fruit, vegetables, nuts and seafood products; 12 months for unpackaged pork products, and two years packaged goods.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Canberra [AS1]  
[AS]

Ref: AS5038

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) today gazetted (signed into law) the new Country of Origin Food Labeling Standard for Australia. The standard will have a phase-in period of six months for unpackaged fruit, vegetables, nuts and seafood; 12 months for unpackaged pork products; and, two years for packaged goods.

The new standard includes:

- broadening the scope of the previous transitional standard to include unpackaged fresh pork, ham and bacon products and processed unpackaged seafood, vegetables, nuts and fruit;
- a requirement that unpackaged products included in the standard have a specific country-of-origin label – not just a statement that the product is imported;
- distinct statement of origin information on packaged products;
- a requirement for country of origin declarations for packaged and unpackaged foods to be consistent with trade practices legislation and trade practices law; and
- strengthened requirements for legibility and print size on labels and signs used to declare the country of origin for unpackaged foods.

Enforcement of all food standards, including country of origin labeling is a state and territory responsibility. A national enforcement strategy for Country of Origin Labeling to be implemented by the states and territories is being developed.

The new standard is available on the FSANZ web site at [www.foodstandards.gov.au](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au). A user guide to assist industry, retailers, enforcement agencies and consumers understand the new standard will be available on the FSANZ web site in the next few weeks.

In October 2005, the Australian Government directed FSANZ to undertake further work to assess the merit of extending country of origin labeling to two or less fruit or vegetable whole food components packaged together, including where other incidental ingredients are included. FSANZ has commenced this work and will be seeking public comment in February 2006 before reporting in March 2006.

#### Recent Marketing Reports from FAS/Canberra:

Report Number	Title of Report	Date
AS5047	New Glycemic Index Food Label System	12/08/2005
AS5046	Nutrition & Health Claims Draft Standard Released for Comment	12/08/2005
AS5045	Top Food Trends in Australia	12/05/2005
AS5039	Calcium Fortification of Beverages, Soups & Biscuits Allowed	11/21/2005
AS5038	Australia to Adopt Country of Origin Labeling Changes	11/21/2005
AS5032	Country of Origin Labeling Requirements Likely to Change	10/06/2005
AS5031	Exporter Guide	10/05/2005
AS5024	Agricultural Biotechnology Report	07/05/2005
AS5020	Food & Agriculture Import Regulations & Standards	06/16/2005
AS4038	Functional Food Sector Product Brief	01/05/2005
AS4037	New Standard for Health & Nutrition Claims on Food Under Development	11/16/2004
AS4035	Organic Food Market Brief	10/28/2004

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